

Message Text

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12/13

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 AF-10 EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5341

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA THREE)

JOINT EMBASSY/USIS MESSAGE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PBOR, SA

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO ARAB/ISRAELI SITUATION

1. ALL PAPERS HAVE RESUMED PUBLISHING AFTER WEEK-LONG
ID AL-FITR HOLIDAY. TODAY'S BANNERLINES ON SADAT PRESS
CONFERENCE ALL IDENTICAL: NO DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH
ISRAEL. SUPPORTING HEADLINES READ: SADAT: WE FOUGHT THE
ENEMY ELEVEN DAYS AND CRUSHED HIS FORCES BUT WERE NOT
PREPARED TO FIGHT AMERICA - ZIONIST PRESENCE WEST OF
CANAL A SMALL POCKET OF NO MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE - MEITHER
I NOR ANY OTHER ARAB LEADER HAS RIGHT TO SPEAK IN NAME
OF PALESTINIANS - SADAT SAYS PRESENT CONTACTS WILL
CLARIFY PICTURE IN A FEW DAYS AND CONFIRMS THERE NO
DOUBT ABOUT PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT PEACE DONFERENCE.

2. OTHER MAJOR STORY LEADS: KISSINGER TO VISIT RABAT,
CAIRO, AMMAN AND RIYADH TO DISCUSS WAYS OF ESTABLISHING
PEACE IN THE AREA; KING THANKS SENEGAL AND GABON FOR
SEVERING REALTIONS WITH ISRAEL; SHAH CALLS FOR NECESSITY
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OF RELYING ON ISLAMIC UNITY AND PRAISES BRAVERY OF

EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN SOLDIERS; KING FAISAL RECEIVES TWO AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN (STEELE AND RYAN OF HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.)

3. REFERRING IN HIS FRONT PAGE ARTICLE TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S SPEECH, AZIZ DIA OF AL BILAD POINTED TO LOSS OF ONLY 200 EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS DURING CROSSING OPERATION OF SUEZ CANAL AND BAR-LEV LINE, AND SAID THIS WAS A MIRACLE ACHIEVED THROUGH BELIEF IN GOD. DIA ALSO PRAISED SADAT FOR HIS "MAGNIFICENT METHOD" OF FACING ARAB MASSES, "NOT WITH RHETORIC, BUT BY TRUTHFULNESS, SINCERITY AND FRANKNESS." DIA ALSO EMPHASIZED WHAT SADAT SAID ABOUT THIRD ARMY NOT BEING BESIEGED BY ISRAELIS. HE NOTED THAT TWO SUPER POWERS ARE MORE KEEN THAN EVER TO ASSURE PROMPT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL BECAUSE WINTER IS APPROACHING, "WITH ALL ITS CRUELTY AND ABILITY TO PENETRATE TO THE MARROW OF THE BONE."

4. ADNAN KAMEL SHLAH OF AL MADINA SUBMITTED/ "WHAT IS SURE IS THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THE ISRAELIS ON THE CANAL'S WEST BANK AND AMIDST THE EGYPTIAN FORCES IS CONSIDERED, AS PRESIDENT SADAT TERMED IT, A SUICIDAL ACTION WHICH DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A MILITARY TRIUMPH FOR ISRAEL AS CLAIMED BY SOME WESTERN SOURCES. ISRAEL CANNOT CLAIM VICTORY UNLESS SHE IS ABLE TO EXPEL THE EGYPTIAN TROOPS WHO CROSSED THE CANAL AND DESTROYED THE BAR-LEV LINE. SADAT HAS INDICATED THAT HE IS UNDER SEVERE PRESSURE FROM THE ARMED FORCES' COMMANDERS TO LET THEM EXPEL THE ISRAELIS FROM THE WEST BANK AND FREE THE BESIEGED 3RD ARMY CONTINGENTS. IF THE ISRAELIS DO NOT DEPART FROM THEIR SUICIDAL VENTURE, THEY WILL FACE A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION, THE IMPLICATIONS OF WHICH MIGHT TRANSCEND THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION.

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